

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2102

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 3476

FOR ASST. SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, ACOM, JM

SUBJECT: NEW CHANCERY

1. I HAVE JUST BEEN ADVISED BY ATO REP FROM MIAMI THAT EARLIEST DATE FOR COMPLETION COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AND THUS OCCUPANCY OF NEW CHANCERY WILL BE LATE MARCH 1977.

2. MUTUAL LIFE CENTER BUILDING APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT FOR NEW CHANCERY IN MAY 1976. LEASE SIGNED JUNE 4, 1976.

3. WE WERE INFORMED IN EARLY MAY BY VARIOUS OFFICERS FROM OC AND TCU REPS THAT COMMUNICATIONS CENTER COULD BE COMPLETED NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, PERMITTING FULL OCCUPANCY AT THAT TIME.

4. SPECIFICATIONS FOR OUR VAULT CONSTRUCTION SO THAT LOCAL CONTRACTOR COULD PROVIDE COST ESTIMATE AND PROCEED WERE PROMISED END OF MAY BUT NOT RECEIVED TILL EARLY AUGUST IN SPITE OF REPEATED REQUESTS.

5. THREE MONTHS IS CONSIDERED MINIMUM TIME FOR COMPLETION OF OUTER VAULT BY CONTRACTOR AND IT APVARS CONSTRUCTION OF PREFABBED INNER VAULT (BY US CONTRACTOR) AND INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT REQUIRING ANOTHER FOUR MONTHS CANNOT START TILL COMPLETION OF OUTER SHELL.

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6. UNLESS HIGHER PRIORITY IS ACCORDED TO THIS INSTALLATION I DOUBT WHETHER MARCH 1977 COMPLETION DATE IS REALISTIC SINCE IT ASSUMES NO STRIKES OR LATE DELIVERIES HERE OR IN U.S.

7. THE DELAY CAUSES ME REAL CONCERN FOR THE SECURITY OF THIS EMBASSY AND ITS STAFF WHICH IS CERTURNLY JUSTIFIED BY RECENT EVEMTS, INCLUDING THE BREAK-IN PN AUGUST 2. FURTHERMORE, OUR IMPLEMENTATION OF WELL-ADVANCED CLEAN SLATE OPERATION WTGLL BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED.

8. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF OC COULD BE URGED TO EXPLORE SOONEST ANY OPTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE (SUCH AS TEMPORARY COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN PRESENT CENTER AND NEW BUILDING) AS SOON AS OCCUPANCY IS OTHERWISE FEASIBLE. I.E., IN LATE 1976 OR EARLY 1977. WILL BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ANY IMPETUS YOU CAN GIVE TO EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.
GERARD

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